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COMOR-M-37

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429
Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency
at 1:30 pm, 10 July 1961

PRESIDING

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Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. H. M. Wiedemann, State
Col. J. E. Mahon, JCS
Col. D. D. Davis, OACSI
Capt. F. M. Murphy, ONI
Col. J. M. Winterbottom, AFCIN
NSA 50X1
CIA 50X1

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

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Col. J. L. Cole, JCS
Capt. J. L. Grayson, JCS
Capt. F. Welden, ONI
Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI
Lt. Cdr. R. E. Pyle, ONI
Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN
Maj. R. H. Furr, AFCIN

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Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

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Release of Data on Missiles (Ref: COMOR-M-35, para 4)

1. The Chairman noted that he had requested the Air Force to review the procedure bearing upon the sanitization of missile-site information for use at the SECRET NOFORN level 50X1 50X1 The Chairman recapitulated for the Committee approved procedure and called attention to the fact that the Air Force in releasing missile-site information had determined to refer to sites as "probable." There is a definition in the publication which defines "probable." This definition is as follows: "A probable missile site is one whose existence, identity, or geographic location has been confidently estimated on the basis of several reliable indicators which conform to a pattern of

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[redacted] 50X1

development or activity which is highly indicative of known, anticipated, or analog missile sites. [redacted] 50X1

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T-KH (RUFF) Coverage of North Vietnam and South China (Ref: COMOR-M-36, para 1)

2. The COMOR agreed on the following as its response to the State Department memorandum (COMOR-D-2/6) which inquired as to the feasibility of satisfying requirements in South China by way of the next T-KH mission:

a. "The COMOR has carefully examined on the basis of past T-KH photography the likelihood that its requirements in South China, Hainan Island, and North Vietnam could be satisfied through the next T-KH mission. In that consideration it has taken into account:

(1) The weather conditions likely to prevail at the time of the mission.

(2) The likelihood that the mission could be controlled to pass over the target area, and

(3) The possible improvement in resolution which might result from an improved camera system (if it is used).

The COMOR has concluded that the T-KH can at best meet the requirements only marginally.

b. "The COMOR concluded that in view of the missile situation as revealed in Mission 9017, it must advise against the sacrifice of USSR priorities through diversion of any satellite photography to South China. If the next mission is a two-day mission with a likelihood of some surplus film, the COMOR recommends that programming (which must begin on July 10th) should include targets in South China, Hainan Island, and North Vietnam insofar as there is surplus film over and above that which can be employed against the priority targets in the USSR.

c. "The COMOR reaffirmed that U-2 coverage of South China, Hainan Island, and North Vietnam is requested to meet U.S. intelligence requirements."

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FLASH Reports on T-KH (RUFF) Readout (Ref: COMOR-M-36, para 2)

3. The COMOR agreed that if information is uncovered on ICBM, IRBM/MRBM deployment sites during the preliminary handling of the film (e.g., plotting and the preparation of briefing materials for the USIB) such information will be reported as a Preliminary OAK Report to the Intelligence Community as soon as practicable. Following the completion of the OAK readout, should data comparable to the COMOR Highest Priority Targets come to light from the scan during the preparation of the MCI, OAK Supplements will be published on such items.

Report on GRAB

4. In executive session of the COMOR Captain Welden of ONI distributed a paper to the Committee [redacted] He also briefed the Committee on developments of project GRAB along with a special briefing by Major Furr. Captain Welden requested the members to study the reference paper in anticipation of further discussion at the end of the month, at which time the Navy would take the initiative to place the matter on the agenda.

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Revised Highest Priority Requirements for T-KH Readout (Ref: COMOR-M-36, para 3)

5. In view of the fact that the revised requirements prepared by [redacted] working group had not yet reached the members in time to permit study, the COMOR took no action on the requirements. The Chairman requested that as soon as possible the members review these requirements and if they had any question to discuss it in the first instance with [redacted] The Chairman stated that if these comments warranted he would call a special meeting to consider the matter.

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NB:

6. The Chairman has been informed by the Secretariat of the United States Intelligence Board that the following papers which had been distributed to the USIB for vote-slip concurrence had been approved and were effective as of the date indicated after the document number:

Proposals for Further Downgrading and Release on Communist China, Indochina, and Tibet, COMOR-D-22/9, USIB-D-17.1/6, [redacted] 7 July 1961.

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Inclusion of [redacted] in Downgraded USSR Materials, 50X1
USIB-D-17.1/5, [redacted], 30 June 1961. 50X1

The members are invited to annotate their file copies of these documents as "USIB approved."

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[redacted]

JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Copy 2--State TCO
3--OSD
4--JCS TCO
5--OACSI TCO
6, 7--ONI TCO
8, 9, 10--AFCIN TCO
11, 12--NSA TCO

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15--OCI TCO
16--OSI TCO
17--ORR TCO
18--DIR NPIC
19--OPS OFF/NPIC
20--TSO CIA
21--C/DMD/NPIC
22--DDP TCO
23--INTEL STAFF/DPD
24--SO/DPD
25-27--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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